

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

City of Ridgecrest, Indian Wells Valley Water District, Inyo County, Kern County, San Bernardino County

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, May 11, 2022

IWVGA Members Present:

Chairman Phillip Peters, Kern County	Carol Thomas-Keefer, IWVGA General Manager
Peggy Breeden, City of Ridgecrest	Alex Lemieux, Legal Counsel
Stan Rajtora, IWVWD	Steve Johnson, Stetson Engineers
John Vallejo, Inyo County	John Kersey, US Navy, DoD Liaison
Tim Itnyre, San Bernardino County	April Keigwin, Clerk of the Board
Thomas Bickauskas, Bureau of Land Management	

Attending via teleconference is Tim Itnyre, John Vallejo, Carol Thomas-Keefer, and Steve Johnson.

Meeting recording and public comment letters submitted are made available at:

<https://iwvga.org/iwvga-meetings/>

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Peters calls the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND AB-361 FINDING:

Motion made by John Vallejo and seconded by Stan Rajtora to make a finding that health and safety risks as stated in AB-361 are still of concern.

Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

Chairman Peters	Aye
Vice Chair Breeden	Aye
Director Itnyre	Aye
Director Rajtora	Aye
Director Vallejo	Aye

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION:

None.

Chairman Peters calls the meeting into Closed Session at 10:05 a.m.

4. CLOSED SESSION:

- CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS – (Government Code Section 54956.8) - Property: Jackson Ranch - Kings County Assessor's Parcel Numbers 048-010-016, 048-010-018, and 048-020-030; Agency Negotiator: Capitol Core Group; Negotiating Parties: Various; Under Negotiation: Price and terms of payment.
- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9(c)): IWVGA v. Inyokern CSD
- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

(Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) - Name of case: Searles Valley Minerals Inc v. Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, et. al. - Orange County Superior Court 30-2022-01239487-CU-MC-CJC

- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- EXISTING LITIGATION
(Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) - Name of case: Mojave Pistachios, LLC, a California limited liability company, et.al. v. Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, a California Joint Powers Authority, et. al. - Orange County Superior Court 30-2022-0139479-CU-MC-CJC

Closed Session adjourns at 11:04 a.m.

5. OPEN SESSION – No earlier than 11:00 a.m.

Meeting reconvenes into Open Session at 11:09 a.m.

- Report on Closed Session – Counsel Lemieux reports no action was taken that would require disclosure under The Brown Act.
- Pledge of Allegiance is led by Chairman Peters
- Roll Call

Chairman Peters	Present
Vice Chair Breeden	Present
Director Itnyre	Present
Director Rajtora	Present
Director Vallejo	Present

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

7. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Vice Chair Breeden announces she will be serving as the alternate for Vice Chair Hayman as the City of Ridgecrest representative for this meeting.

Director Rajtora requests the Board consider adding an agenda item to the July meeting to implement a new policy requiring future Annual Reports be adopted by the Board before submission to the Department of Water Resources (DWR). Director Rajtora would like to see a plan and budget for the 19 recommended corrective actions identified by DWR. Rajtora requests Stetson provide monthly updates on groundwater in storage. Board consensus is to add an item to the July meeting for further discussion on future annual report adoption procedures.

8. CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approve Minutes of Board Meeting April 13, 2022
- Approve Expenditures

**To view itemized invoices please visit <https://iwvga.org/iwvga-meetings>*

- \$105,262.85 – Stetson Engineers
- \$33,957.00 – Regional Government Services – (Replenishment / Extraction)
- \$12,243.75 – Capitol Core Group – (Replenishment)
- \$36,473.33 – California Rural Water Association – (SDAC)

Motion made by Peggy Breeden and seconded by Tim Itnyre to approve Minutes of Board Meeting April 13, 2022 and the following expenditures in the amount of, \$105,262.85 to Stetson Engineers, \$33,957.00 to Regional Government Services, \$12,243.75 to Capitol Core Group, and \$36,473.33 to California Rural Water Association.

Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

Chairman Peters	Aye
Vice Chair Breeden	Aye

Director Itnyre	Aye
Director Rajtora	Aye
Director Vallejo	Aye

9. IWVGA SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATIVE MATTERS:

Michael McKinney of Capitol Core Group presents the following items for Board approval (documents made available on the IWVGA website):

- a. Wastewater Treatment Plant State Budget Request
- b. SB 1395 CAL-DCIP

The Board hears public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk

Motion made by Peggy Breeden and seconded by Stan Rajtora to approve the Letter of Support for the Wastewater Treatment Plant State Budget Request.

Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

Chairman Peters	Aye
Vice Chair Breeden	Aye
Director Itnyre	Aye
Director Rajtora	Aye
Director Vallejo	Aye

Motion made by Stan Rajtora and seconded by Peggy Breeden to approve the Letter of Support requesting the City of Ridgecrest be included under the requirements of SB 1395 CAL-DCIP.

Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

Chairman Peters	Aye
Vice Chair Breeden	Aye
Director Itnyre	Aye
Director Rajtora	Aye
Director Vallejo	Aye

10. BOARD DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ABANDONMENT OF THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM DUE TO LACK OF FUNDING:

Carol Thomas-Keefer presents letter from Indian Wells Valley Water District (IWVWD) Board of Directors (document made available on the IWVGA website).

The Board hears public comment from Judie Decker, Joshua Nugent, Don Decker, and Renee Westa-Lusk.

11. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT (SGMA IP) GRANT FUNDING AWARD:

Carol Thomas-Keefer announces the award status from Department of Water Resources for SGMA IP funding. Jeff Simonetti of Capitol Core Group and Steve Johnson discuss actions moving forward with funding dollars.

The Board hears public comment from Don Decker.

12. BOARD TO REVIEW AND APPROVE RFP RELEASE FOR IMPORTED WATER PIPELINE ALIGNMENT STUDY:

Steve Johnson and Jeff Helsley present a staff report and RFP (documents made available on the IWVGA website).

The Board hears public comment from Don Decker, West Katzenstein, Derek Hoffman, Mike Sinnott, and Renee Westa-Lusk.

Motion made by John Vallejo and seconded by Peggy Breeden to approve release of RFP for Imported Water

Pipeline Alignment Study.

Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

Chairman Peters	Aye
Vice Chair Breeden	Aye
Director Itnyre	Aye
Director Rajtora	Aye
Director Vallejo	Aye

13. WATER RESOURCES MANAGER REPORT:

Steve Johnson, and Jean Moran provide updates on the following grants/programs (documents made available on the IWVGA website):

- a. Grant Funding
 - i. Proposition 1
 - ii. Proposition 68
 - iii. SGMA Implementation Project Grant Funds
- b. GSP Implementation Projects/Management Action Updates
 - i. Recycled Water Program
- c. Miscellaneous Items
 - i. Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDE) Update
 - ii. Rose Valley Subflow Update
 - iii. IWVGA Basin Model Configuration Management Plan

The Board hears public comment from Don Decker.

14. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:

Carol Thomas-Keefer provides the Monthly Financial Report, Technical Memorandum from Capitol Core Group, Severely Disadvantaged Communities Update and status update on the 2020 audit (documents made available on the IWVGA website).

The Board hears public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – June 8, 2022

16. ADJOURN:

Chairman Peters adjourns the meeting at 1:10 p.m. on May 11, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,



April Keigwin

Clerk of the Board

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority